

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 COME-00 /072 W

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R 111927Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7755

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 04290

SECDEF FOR DDR&E DR. CURRIE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO' FR

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (EPG)

REF: (A) PARIS 3688, (B) PARIS 4130, (C) PARIS 2522

1. SUMMARY: DELPECH DISCUSSED EPG AND STANDARDIZATION WITH DCM, AND PROVIDED HIM WITH COPY OF DELPECH'S STATEMENT TO FEBRUARY 2 ROME MEETING. WE RECOMMEND DELPECH'S  
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STATEMENT FOR CLOSE WASHINGTON ATTENTION. IT IS BEST

EXPLANATION OF FRENCH POLICY ON INTEROPERABILITY,  
STANDARDIZATION AND EUROPEAN ARMAMENT COOPERATION THAT  
WE HAVE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH DCM FEBRUARY 11, DELPECH (FRENCH ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR) ADDED TO INFORMATION REPORTED IN REFS A AND B CONCERNING FEBRUARY 2 ROME MEETING WHICH ESTABLISHED EPG. DELPECH CHAIRED FRENCH DELEGATION AT ROME AND PROVIDED DCM WITH A COPY OF HIS OPENING STATEMENT. (DELPECH'S STATEMENT -- CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL-- POUCHED PM - GOODBY.) HE SAID THAT FRENCH APPROACHED EPG FROM "PRACTICAL CASE-BY-CASE" POINT OF VIEW RATHER THAN FROM "PHILOSOPHICAL" APPROACH WITH THIS IN MIND, AND TO AVOID CHANCE THAT ROME COMMUNIQUE MIGHT CREATE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN FRANCE AND ELSEWHERE, FRENCH WANTED TO AVOID LONG AND DETAILED COMMUNIQUE. COMMUNIQUE FINALLY AGREED TO IN ROME MET FRENCH CONCERNS AND DELPECH CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO NEGATIVE POLITICAL FEEDBACK IN PARIS CONCERNING FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ROME MEETING. IN FACT, SAID DELPECH, ARCH-GAULLIST MICHEL DEBRE (WHO CAN NORMALLY BE RELIED ON TO DEFEND PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY DE GAULLE'S LEGACY) MET WITH GISCARD DAY AFTER ROME MEETING AND MADE NO CRITICISM OF FRENCH COMPORTMENT AT EPG.

3. WHEN THE DCM ASKED WHAT WEAPONS SYSTEMS THE FRENCH HAVE IN MIND FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EPG, DELPECH CITED FRENCH "MINE HUNTER" SYSTEM AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATE. HE NOTED THAT BELGIUM AND HOLLAND ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN "MINE HUNTER" PROGRAM AND GREAT BRITAIN AND FRG HAVE SHOWN SERIOUS INTEREST IN IT. DELPECH BELIEVES THIS COULD BE SUBJECT FOR EVEN WIDER EUROPEAN COOPERATION.

4. ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF STANDARDIZATION, DELPECH SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH DR. CURRIE'S COMMENTS CONCERNING STANDARDIZATION, CONTAINED IN RECENT BUDGET STATEMENT. DELPECH OBSERVED THAT FORMER SECDEF SCHLESINGER SEEMED TO HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN SEEING THAT EUROPE NEEDS TO RATIONALIZE ITS OWN ARMAMENT PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES  
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BEFORE IT CAN COMPETE "REALISTICALLY" WITH THE U.S. WITHIN ANY GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF NATO STANDARDIZATION. HE COMMENTED THAT ORIGINAL US PROPOSAL FOR NATO STANDARDIZATION WAS "RATIONAL, SINCERE, BUT SHOWED LITTLE APPRECIATION FOR TECHNICAL REALITIES." HE UNDERLINED THAT IT IS PRECISELY THE TECHNICAL REALITIES THAT POSE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR EARLY NATO STANDARDIZATION. ONCE THE EUROPEANS HAVE OVERCOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS BY

RENDERING MORE EFFICIENT THEIR OWN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION  
BASE, NATO STANDARDIZATION WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE. HE  
ADDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT US WOULD NEVER  
PERMIT ITSELF TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON EUROPE FOR ITS  
ARMS. AMERICANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FRENCH HARBOR  
SAME TYPE OF CONCERN: EUROPE MUST NOT BECOME DEPENDENT  
ON U.S. FOR ITS ARMS. THIS STILL LEAVES AMPLE ROOM,  
HOWEVER, FOR GREATER COOPERATION AND EVENTUAL STANDARD-  
IZATION.

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5. DELPECH SAID THERE ARE MANY POSSIBILITIES FOR ARM-  
AMENT COOPERATION WITHIN ALLIANCE AND IN SMALLER, MORE  
RESTRICTIVE COOPERATIVE GROUPINGS (E.G., FRANCO-  
AMERICAN). WE NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT ROUTE TO MAXIMIZE  
THESE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT  
"REAL OPPORTUNITIES" FOR COOPERATION ARE IN R&D AREA.  
EUROPEANS HAVE IMPORTANT CAPABILITIES IN THIS AREA AND  
THERE SHOULD BE MORE VIGOROUS EFFORT BY ALL TO WIDEN  
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SCOPE OF COOPERATION ON R&D MATTERS. THIS SHOULD BE  
"CONCRETE" APPROACH, NOT "PHILOSOPHICAL" DISCUSSION AND  
IT COULD LEAD TO TYPES OF COOPERATION THAT WOULD SAVE  
DEFENSE FUNDS ON BOTH SIDES OF ATLANTIC WHILE LEADING  
TO PRODUCTION OF BETTER WEAPONS SYSTEMS FOR ALL OF US.

6. AS SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF AREA FOR POTENTIAL COOPERA-  
TION, DELPECH NOTED "LONG RANGE SURFACE-TO-SURFACE  
MISSILE" DESIGNED FOR ANTI-SHIPPING PURPOSES. HE UNDERR-  
LINED THAT HE WAS NOT TALKING ABOUT CRUISE MISSILES, BUT  
RATHER THE MORE TRADITIONAL TYPES OF ANTI-SHIPPING  
MISSILES WHICH SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES ALREADY HAVE UNDER  
DEVELOPMENT AND SOME HAVE EVEN DEPLOYED.

7. AS AN ASIDE, DELPECH PREDICTED THAT THE UNITED STATES  
WILL BUY A US-DESIGNED AND PRODUCED TANK AND NOT THE  
GERMAN LEOPARD II. HE COMMENTED THAT HIS FRG FRIENDS  
ARE SURPRISED AND DISTURBED BY THEIR GROWING PERCEPTION  
THAT FINAL US DECISION ON ITS FUTURE MAIN BATTLE TANK  
WILL GO AGAINST GERMAN TANK. DELPECH SAID GERMANS  
SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED AT ALL, BECAUSE THIS IS  
PRECISELY THE WAY HE WOULD EXPECT UNITED STATES TO  
BEHAVE ON A MATTER OF THIS IMPORTANCE. HE MADE CLEAR  
THAT HIS COMMENT WAS PEJORATIVE BUT SIMPLY A REFLECTION  
OF THE WAY GREAT POWERS VIEW THEIR OWN INTERESTS WITH  
REGARD TO THE FUNDAMENTALS OF NATIONAL ARMAMENT PRODUC-  
TION. FRANCE, HE SAID, HAS THE SAME VIEW. NEVERTHE-  
LESS, HE CONCLUDED, "REAL OPPORTUNITIES" EXIST FOR  
GREATER COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEANS AND BETWEEN U.S.  
AND FRANCE.

8. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND A CLOSE READING OF  
DELPECH'S STATEMENT AT ROME. IT IS LUCID GOF POLICY  
STATEMENT ON INTEROPERABILITY, STANDARDIZATION AND  
EUROPEAN ARMAMENT COOPERATION. IT EVEN CONTAINS SEVERAL  
DIRECT QUOTES WHICH SEEM TO COME FROM RECENT DOD POSTURE  
STATEMENT. INCIDENTALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING

THE 10 COPIES OF THAT POSTURE STATEMENT REQUESTED IN

REF C.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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